
Name of Organization: Environment Canada

Type of Organization: Federal Agency

Contact Information: Mr. Hamish St. Rose

Nuclear Programs and Contaminants

4905 Dufferin Street

Downsview, Ontario 00000

Phone: (416) 739 - 5865 **Extension:**

Fax: (416) 739 - 4405

E-Mail: Hamish.St.Rose@ec.gc.ca

Project Title: Great Lakes PCB and Mercury Cleansweep Program

Project Category: Pollution Prevention and Reduction - BNS

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 1

Total Funding Requested (\$): 50,000 **Project Duration:** 1 Years

Abstract:

This Great Lakes PCB and Mercury CleanSweep Program is an undertaking to help small businesses in the Cities of Chicago and Toronto identify and properly manage PCB and Mercury containing materials through a cooperative program. The targeted sectors are small business in the Cities of Chicago and Toronto areas that typically do \$10 million or less in sales and have less than 200 employees. Currently, the City of Chicago is participating in the Cook County PCB and Mercury CleanSweep Program. One aspect of this project would be to share Environment Canada's expertise in PCB and Mercury management with the Cook County Partners therefore providing support during their current implementation phase. The targeted groups would be contacted by mail and given appropriate literature on the subjects of PCBs and Mercury and would be invited to workshops held in the Cities of Chicago and Toronto. These workshops, done in partnership with both cities, would provide presentations and discussions on the collection and proper disposal of these waste materials. There are many benefits to having cleansweep efforts underway in both the Cities of Chicago and Toronto. The project would promote international cooperation and relations, ideas and experiences can be shared as part of the program, and publicizing the efforts as a joint undertaking may make both more successful, setting an example of partnerships and potentially benefiting the entire Great Lakes community.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio

Lakes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

Geographic Initiatives:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
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Primary Affected Area of Concern:

Other Affected Areas of Concern: Lakes Michigan and Ontario

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area: Not Applicable

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

The Cities of Chicago and Toronto are typical of many urban centres in the Great Lakes area where small businesses have old electrical equipment that contains PCB materials and Mercury containing switches. The normal operation and storage of this type of equipment can lead to fugitive emissions to the atmosphere. This issue has been documented in studies in the Greater Chicago area that noted the city to be a major source of Mercury and PCBs emissions which are eventually deposited into Lake Michigan through various water, soil and air pathways (see, for example, "Dry Deposition of Particulate Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon to Lake Michigan" in Environment Science Technology 1998,32,3681-3688).

Currently, there are regulatory programs in place to reduce PCBs and Mercury from major sources, but no positive incentive program exists for small businesses in the Toronto area who may have Mercury or PCB contaminated equipment, materials or PCB contaminated oil. Additionally, many small business owners are unable to identify subject equipment, oils or other materials and are not aware of the contaminants at their facilities. It is the intention of this program to help inform and encourage the removal and destruction of this type of material.

In Chicago, the Cook County PCB and Mercury CleanSweep project has been going on for several months. However, additional support for the Cook County PCB and Mercury CleanSweep project would be useful to help deal with issues related to the magnitude of the problem in Cook County, supporting the advancement of the project and benefitting both Chicago and Toronto.

Proposed Work Outcome:

Environment Canada proposes to develop both the City of Toronto PCB and Mercury Cleansweep Program alone with supporting the Cook County PCB and Mercury CleanSweep effort now underway. These projects will involve information distribution to encouraging the locating, collection and proper disposal of PCB and Mercury containing equipment and contaminated materials. If funded, Environment Canada will participate with the Cook County CleanSweep Partners and the City of Toronto in this important undertaking.

Environment Canada will create a positive information program for small businesses in the Cook County and Toronto areas

to meet five goals:

- 1) To work with local government, partners and small business to reduce the amount of PCB and Mercury that is released into Lakes Michigan and Ontario Basin;
- 2) Educate small businesses in cooperation with local government to identify Mercury and PCB containing equipment;
- 3) Inform small businesses and local government of the Cities of Chicago and Toronto PCB and Mercury Cleansweep Program through a coordinated marketing effort;
- 4) Encourage the collection and proper disposal of Mercury and PCB equipment from small businesses;
- 5) Using measurable reporting and evaluation, assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Cities of Chicago and Toronto PCB and Mercury Cleansweep Program as a pilot or demonstration project for other jurisdictions.

The program's goal is to encourage the collection and proper disposal of Mercury and PCBs from small businesses that may be unaware of the hazards these materials can be. Ultimately, the program is intended to reduce the quantity of PCBs and Mercury that is released into Lakes Michigan and Ontario Basins.

Environment Canada can meet its five goals by educating small businesses to identify PCB and Mercury containing equipment through workshops and sector-specific mass mailings and a follow-up telephone survey. Environment Canada will rely on experience gained from previous outreach campaigns in the area of "PCB Outreach Initiatives". Environment Canada would retain an outside contactor to develop useful educational materials to inform generators about the Cities of Chicago and Toronto PCB and Mercury Cleansweep Programs and encourage their participation in this program. The survey will add support by offering a tool for measuring the success of the Program as a pilot for other locations.

Environment Canada will work closely with the officials implementing the Cook County PCB and Mercury Cleansweep Program in order to maximize use of the knowledge and experiences gained from that program.

In the City of Toronto, a target audience of participants (approximately 1000) will receive the material through a mailing then a subset (approximately 100) will be contacted for a telephone survey to determine:

- 1) their willingness to participate in PCB and Mercury identification;
- 2) their willingness to attend a workshop on PCB and Mercury identification and disposal

If funded, Environment Canada will dedicate a staff person to manage the project, donate technical expertise and other relevant resources.

Project Milestones:**Dates:**

Assess Needs, Hire Contractor

06/2000

Develop Materials, Survey, Market Plan

09/2000

Finalize and Mail Materials

10/2000

Survey Potential Generators

12/2000

Conduct Workshops

02/2001

Report on Workshop and Survey Findings

03/2001

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Project End

05/2001



Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:

In the development of the project it is the intention of Environment Canada to treat all those involved with this project in a fair and responsible manner. The scope of the project involves the City of Toronto. It is the intent of the project to identify and involve as many small businesses as possible throughout the city.



Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

A very important aspect of this program is the Education/Outreach for those small businesses that currently manage PCB and Mercury materials. The development of education, instructive material will form an integral part of the success of this project

Project Budget:

	Federal Share Requested (\$)	Applicant's Share (\$)
Personnel:	0	6,000
Fringe:	0	0
Travel:	10,000	6,000
Equipment:	3,000	0
Supplies:	7,000	3,000
Contracts:	30,000	0
Construction:	0	0
Other:	0	0
Total Direct Costs:	50,000	15,000
Indirect Costs:	0	0
Total:	50,000	15,000
Projected Income:	0	0

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

There are many PCB and Mercury disposal companies who have demonstrated an interest in this program and will supply their staff time "In Kind" by participating in the workshops and supplying funds to cover the refreshments/lunch at the workshops.

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:

Partnerships with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment will be a key ingredient to the success of the project. As well, the City of Toronto - Environmental Protection Office will provide meeting rooms, presentation equipment, and staff time "In Kind" to ensure the success of this project.